Democratic societies are far less prone to ideologies based on violence or militarist yearnings, since they do not have their fingers permanently on the trigger of a gun. We have to be vigilant against threats to democracy worldwide arising from forces that are opposed to it, be they rooted in fundamentalist political dogmas or extremist religious ideologies.

Mr. President,

All of us are aware of the challenges. Most of us are agreed that a stable global order has to rest on the four strong pillars of peace, security, sustainable development and democracy. We have to ensure that each of these pillars is strong and resilient.

We are conscious of our collective responsibility. It is the leap from this theoretical understanding to its practical realization, which we have often failed to execute. We should not fail again. Our future generations will not forgive us if we do.

Thank you.

Rotting of grains in FCI godowns

†*56. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large quantity of old stock of food grains is rotting in the godowns of Food Corporation of India? If so, the number of such godowns and how old are the grains lying there;

(b) whether the rotten grains have been released for distribution, if so, by whose order and the justification of distributing the rotten grains; and

(c) the arrangements made by Government to maintain the movement of grains?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD YADAV): (a) to (c) Foodgrains which are unfit for human consumption, regardless of age, are termed as

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

"damaged foodgrains" whose stock with the Food Corporation of India (FCI), as on 30th September, 2002, was about 0.53 lakh tonnes (0.22% of the total stocks held by FCI on this date).

2. Foodgrain stocks unfit for human consumption are classified into four categories based on the percentage of sound grains, excluding foreign matter. These four categories are (i) feed grade; (ii) industrial use, (iii) manure; and (iv) fit for dumping. The damaged stocks are disposed off, as per the prescribed procedure, in the following manner by the FCI:—

(i) In the first instance, the stocks are offered to the State Governments/their Agencies by entering into a Rate Running Contract (RRC).

(ii) If there is no RRC, the stocks are disposed off through tenders.

3. As per the decision recently taken, feed category foodgrains are also being allotted on "free of cost" basis for the drought-affected areas, on the recommendation of the Department of Agriculture & Cooperation.

4. Foodgrains procured in surplus areas are moved to consuming States for onward distribution through the Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) and other Welfare Schemes of the Government and are, in addition, disposed off through open tender sales and exports. The principle of first-in-first-out (FIFO) is followed to minimize accumulation of old stocks.

38th Session of Indian Labour Conference

†*57. SHRI KAPIL SIBAL:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the report submitted by Second Labour Commission was discussed in the 38th session of Indian Labour Conference;

(b) if so, whether unanimous decisions were taken after the said discussion; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.